

1. Cancelled.

2. Cancelled.

3. Cancelled

4. (Currently amended) A method using an aqueous effluent comprising the steps

of:

collecting water contaminated with the salts of Na, Ca, Mg, Cl, SO<sub>4</sub>, or CO<sub>3</sub>;

processing the contaminated water to produce a first effluent of clean water having a salt content too high for potable use but a salt content lower than the contaminated water and a second effluent of waste water having 0.15% or more by weight of the salts of Na, Ca, Mg, Cl, SO<sub>4</sub>, or CO<sub>3</sub>, or combinations thereof and a greater salt content than the clean water;

analyzing the clean water to determine if its sodium content is too high for potable use; and

using the clean water within a cooling tower to dissipate heat if it has been determined that the clean water's sodium content is too high for potable use.

5. (Currently amended) The method of using an aqueous effluent of Claim 4 wherein the step of processing the contaminated water includes the step of water softening.

6. (Original) The method of using an aqueous effluent of Claim 5 wherein the step of processing the contaminated water is by ion-exchange, precipitation, membrane softening or electrolysis.

7. Cancelled.

8. Cancelled.

9. Cancelled.

10. Cancelled.

11. Cancelled.

12. Cancelled

13. Cancelled.

14. Cancelled.